

I know we at EMS/RESCUE in Bulloch County will never be able to repay all those involved, but, if you ever have any need here in our community, please don't hesitate to call.

Very Sincerely,

LEE ECHIES,
Director.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONS AND OKINAWA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of myself and Representatives BE-REUTER, and BERMAN, to introduce a resolution recognizing the vital role of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan in ensuring the peace and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region, and expressing gratitude to the people of Okinawa for the special role they have played in ensuring the implementation of this treaty.

My friend and colleague, WILLIAM V. ROTH, Jr., is introducing a similar resolution in the other body today.

I agree with former Member of this House, and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, who called the relationship between the United States and Japan "the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none." The end of the cold war and resulting instability in Asia has only reinforced the fundamental importance of this relationship to our two nations, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world as a whole.

Indeed, as Secretary of State Madeline Albright stated to the House International Relations Committee this week, "our alliance with a democratic and prosperous Japan is one of the great successes of the postwar era." Our security alliance has endured over the years, and remains strong today, because the United States and Japan are united not by a common enemy, but rather, by common interests.

In the formulation of former Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph S. Nye, security is like oxygen. You tend not to notice it until you begin to lose it. Once you lose it, you would pay any price to have it back.

The alliance between the United States and Japan provides the oxygen which allows the economies and societies of the Asia-Pacific region to thrive. It rightly remains the foundation of American security strategy for the Asia-Pacific region. The United States, as a Pacific power, and world's leading exporter, gains more than any nation from the region's peace and prosperity.

The Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security encapsulates the terms of the bilateral alliance. This past December, the United States and Japan agreed to measures to renew our security relationship in the Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] Final Report issued by the United States-Japan Security Consultative Committee. This report set forth a timetable for return to Japanese control of one-fifth of the land used by the U.S. military in Okinawa. This island prefecture, as host to over half of the forward-deployed troops of the United States in Japan, has long borne a major share of the burdens of maintaining regional security.

The SACO Final Report therefore also provided for changes in operational and training procedures and in the Status of Forces Agreement which will maintain the operational capability and readiness of forward-deployed U.S. forces while lessening the impact of the U.S. military presence on the daily life of the Okinawan people.

For centuries Okinawa has been known as the Land of Courtesy. The Okinawan people deserve our gratitude for their many contributions to the United States-Japan relationship, and to the peace and security of the region. Their continued understanding and support are vital to the successful implementation of the SACO Final Report, and the Mutual Security Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution I introduce today reaffirms that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security remains vital to the security interests of the United States, Japan, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It acknowledges the achievement of the United States and Japanese Governments in reinvigorating the alliance through the SACO Final Report. It also recognizes the special contributions of the people of Okinawa, to the implementation of the Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the critical importance to the United States of our relationship with Japan, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution.

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE SANDINISTAS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the 105th Congress the newly released book entitled, "The Secret Life of the Sandinistas." This book written by Roberto Arguello, outlines the last decade of Sandinista activity.

Mr. Arguello writes material published in as many as 140 newspapers in Latin America and is a member of the U.S. Senate's Hispanic task force. This latest work is a capstone to his efforts for advocating free enterprise and fighting for the elimination of totalitarian oppression.

Mr. Arguello's, "The Secret Life of the Sandinistas," will be available in the near future through the Library of Congress. I would encourage all of my colleagues who have either a general interest in international affairs or a specific interest in Nicaragua to review this excellent book.

RAYMOND "TIM" GORECKI NAMED 1997 PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE COUNCIL OF SOUTH SIDE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Raymond "Tim" Gorecki, on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations.

By honoring Tim, the Council of South Side Advancement is recognizing a man who has served Milwaukee's south side for over 20 years. In that time, he has had a direct impact on the lives of many Milwaukeeans.

Tim Gorecki has shown his dedication to his community through his involvement in several organizations. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Council of South Side Advancement Associations, Tim also served as the Sergeant at Arms for the Milwaukee County Council of the American Legion, and is a member of the South Side Business Club and the George Washington Legion. Tim's involvement in these organizations demonstrates his commitment to Milwaukee.

Tim Gorecki has clearly set an example for all of us to follow. I join the Council of South Side Advancement Associations in commending Tim Gorecki on his outstanding dedication to the south side of Milwaukee, and I congratulate him on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Years.

IN SUPPORT OF TRIO PROGRAMS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of one of the best educational and welfare reform tools available today in the United States, our TRIO programs. The TRIO program is designed to identify students in need and provide them with information on academics; financial aid; tutoring support; and other needed services so they may have a chance to enter and graduate from a post-secondary institution. I can think of no better use of our precious fiscal resources than providing someone with the tools to earn their own way in this world.

I also wish to applaud the efforts of the TRIO program at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL. Under the direction of Stillman's president, Dr. Cordell Wynn, and the director of their TRIO program, Mr. Vernon Freeman, I feel we have one of the more forward reaching programs in the country. In closing, I wish to offer a special commendation to the parents of our TRIO students for the encouragement, participation and love which they have shown to their children. For after all, one of the greatest legacies which we may leave our children, is a sound education in which they may build their future.

REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in the long and expensive history of corporate welfare, no law has evaded reform more successfully than the mining law of 1872. For 125 years, since the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, this law has governed hard rock mining in America. And throughout those 125 years, as billions of dollars in public gold, silver, and other valuable resources have been mined, the taxpayers have not received one dime in royalties.